Constant increase in WPI

1578. SHRl DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been constantly increasing during each of the last three financial years;

(b) if so, the break up of average annual rise in the rate of WPI during the above period;

(c) whether the rate of inflation based on WPI has declined to a five year low in September, 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check the rising rate of WPI and inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The average inflation measured in terms of WPI for all commodities for last 5 years with the monthly breakup is indicated below:

Average year-on-year inflation (%)

Period	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Apr	6.59	4.51	5.91	3.86	6.28
May	6.51	5.02	5.55	4.73	5.46
Jun	5.40	6.68	4.32	5.12	4.53
Jul	4.65	7.61	4.29	4.83	4.71
Aug	3.95	8.46	3.66	5.12	4.14
Sep	4.90	7.92	4.06	5.38	3.32P
Oct	5.13	7.27	4.71	5.51	3.02P
Nov	5.42	7.52	4.21	5.50	
Dec	5.80	6.73	4.45	5.68	
Jan	6.50	5.54	4.08	6.37	
Feb	6.14	5.01	4.03	6.36	
Mar	4.78	5.39	3.85	6.61	
Average	5.48	6.47	4.42	5.43	

P-Provisional

(e) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Non-clearance of refund cases of senior citizens

1579. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax authorities in Delhi have not cleared all the refund cases of senior citizens for the financial years, 2005-06 and 2004-05 and assessment years, 2006-07 and 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total refund cases for the above category for each of the above years and those remaining pending, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No refunds of Senior Citizens are pending relating to Assessment Year 2005-06 in Delhi charge. However, 238 such refunds are pending for Assessment Year 2006-07.

(b) These refunds are pending due to technical reasons like, Duplicate Permanent Account Numbers (PAN), no PAN, invalid PAN and non-migration of out-station PANs.

(c) The number of such refund cases are as under:

Assessment Year	Total number of refunds	Pending No. of refunds
2005-06	3831	Nil
2006-07	11832	238

Companies listed in stock markets in India

† 1580. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that companies are listed in the stock markets of India;

(b) if so, the number of companies listed during the year, 2005,2006 and upto November, 2007; and

(c) the number of those companies listed during the above period, year-wise, in which more than 20 per cent shares have been purchased by foreign financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Rejection of recommendations of BRPSE

1581. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick PSUs referred to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises, so far;

(b) the name of the units where BRPSE has recommended their revival;

(c) how many such cases has been cleared by Government;

(d) the name of the units where BRPSE's recommendation for revival has been rejected; and

(e) the reasons for these rejections?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 57 proposals of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.